(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of requests received are 39.

(b) 18 cases have been processed and approved. The balance will be considered after the capacity of the exchange is increased. Out of 18 approved cases, 11 Demand Notes have been issued. Other approved applicants have not responded for completion of formalities.

(c) On receipt of payment of the Demand Notes by the applications.

Opening of Head Post Office at Sahibganj

1035. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for opening a Head Office at Sahibganj is pending with the Government since 1993;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor

(c) whether any survey has been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). On receipt of representation from the public representative regarding upgradation of Sahibganj Post Office to Head Post Office, a report was called for from Bihar Circle in 1993. On the basis of the said report, it has been found that there is no justification for upgradation of Sahibganj Post Office to Head Post Office as per Departmental norms.

Payment of dues by PSUs

1036. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have issued the directives for payment of statutory dues to employees of Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether there is a delay in the disbursement of dues to those employees who have sought retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) It is a mandatory obligation of the management of PSUs to pay the statutory dues to the workers in time. However, certain sick Central Public Sector Enterprises have not been able to pay statutory dues to the workers in time due to shortage of funds. Whenever Ministry of Labour receives any such complaint of non-payment of statutory dues to the workers the matter is taken up with the concerned administrative Ministries as well as Ministry of Finance so that funds are made available in time for payment of statutory dues. The State-wise details are not available as the status changes with time.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Labour received a complaint regarding non-payment of dues to the employees of a unit of NTC located in West Bengal who had superannuated under VRS. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Industry and the administrative Ministry for appropriate action.

Shifting of Air Force

1037 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Civil Construction office of the Superintending Engineer Electrical AIR from Nagpur to Calcutta;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide suitable accommodation, specially to Adivasis and Backward communities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) A proposal has been made to the Government by Directorate General, All India Radio in this regard. However, no decision has been taken yet on this proposal. All pros and cons would be weighed while taking a final decision in the matter

[Translation]

Flights of Air India

1038 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether it has been made known at international level that the flights of Air India are risky and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) No, sir. Highest international safety standards are being maintained by Air India.

(b) Does not arise.